Other recommended products to have on-hand include:

D-Klor Water Dechlorinator
Recommended for dechlorinating any new water you add to your system

Tidy Tank Sludge Eradicator
Aids in breaking down organic debris and sludge to further improve water quality

Zym-Bac Beneficial Live Bacteria
Recommended to jump-start your system's ecosystem after it has been emptied and stored for an extended period of time

ClorAm-X
Essential if your area's water contains chloramine. (Contact your area's water treatment department.)

Home Grown Ponics Fish Food
High-quality 0.5mm fish food pellets for ornamental fish

Fish Prep preventative fish bath
Therapeutic fish bath designed to help prevent the transfer of disease from newly introduced fish

Fish Therapy curative fish bath
Curative fish bath and de-stressor for individual fish

Please visit The Aquaponic Source's online store at **TheAquaponicStore.com** for more information and to place an order.

Aquaminiums™

ECO-STYLE LIVING WITH FISH AND PLANTS

User's Manual

THE AQUAPONIC SOURCE, INC.
1860 LEFTHAND CIRCLE, SUITE E
LONGMONT, CO 80501
1-855-285-4252
CUSTOMERSERVICE@THEAQUAPONICSOURCE.COM

Limited Warranty

The Aquaponic Source warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of the original purchase, when utilized for normal household use, subject to the following conditions, exclusions and exceptions.

Should any defect covered by the terms of the limited warranty be discovered within one (1) year, ***The Aquaponic Source*** will repair or replace any defective part provided the unit is returned by the original purchaser, freight prepaid, to:

The Aquaponic Source
1860 Lefthand Cir, Suite E
Longmont, CO 80501 USA

The liability of ***The Aquaponic Source*** under this warranty is limited solely to the cost of the replacement parts or the complete unit at our option. LABOR CHARGES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

This warranty does not cover normal wear of parts and does not apply to any unit that has been tampered with or used for commercial purposes. This warranty does not apply to any defect arising from misuse of the product, negligence, failure to follow ***The Aquaponic Source's*** instructions, use on current or voltage other than that stamped on the product, alteration or repair not authorized by ***The Aquaponic Source***, or damage due to faulty packaging or mishandling in transit (by any common carrier). Repair or disassembly by anyone other than a "***The Aquaponic Source"*** authorized service center will void the warranty.

This warranty is extended only to the original purchaser of the unit and excludes all other legal and/or conventional warranties. The responsibility of ***The Aquaponic Source***, if any, is limited to the specific obligations expressly assumed by it under the terms of the limited warranty. In no event is ***The Aquaponic Source*** liable for incidental or consequential damages of any nature whatsoever. Some States/Provinces do not permit the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights which vary from state to state or province to province.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your aquaponic system, please contact Customer Service. Please **do not return any product without contacting *The Aquaponic Source* for return authorization.** Unauthorized returns, as well as C.O.D. shipments, will be refused.

*Important: After receiving return authorization, carefully pack item to avoid damage in shipping. Be sure to include your name, complete address and phone number with note giving purchase information and what you believe is the problem with item. We recommend you insure the package (as damage in shipping is not covered by your warranty). Mark the outside of your package "ATTENTION CUSTOMER SERVICE".

We are constantly striving to improve our products; therefore the specifications contained herein are subject to change without notice.

WATER CHANGES

We highly recommend that you perform a 50% water change on your aquarium once per week. (If you installed the optional Aquaminiums™ Aquarium Upgrade Kit, you may perform a 50% water change once per month instead.) This will aid in preventing the buildup of toxins in the water that can become harmful and even deadly to your fish and plants.

1. Unplug your LED lighting (and optional filter pump).
2. Remove the plant pot, LED lighting, and ventilated lid.
3. Carefully remove, directly or using a clean small cup, approximately 50% of the aquarium water.
4. Refill the aquarium with dechlorinated water until it is approximately 80% full. Try to use water that is as close to the same temperature as the existing water as possible to avoid stressing the fish.
5. Replace the plant pot, LED lighting, and ventilated lid.
6. With dry hands, plug your LED lighting (and optional filter pump) back in.

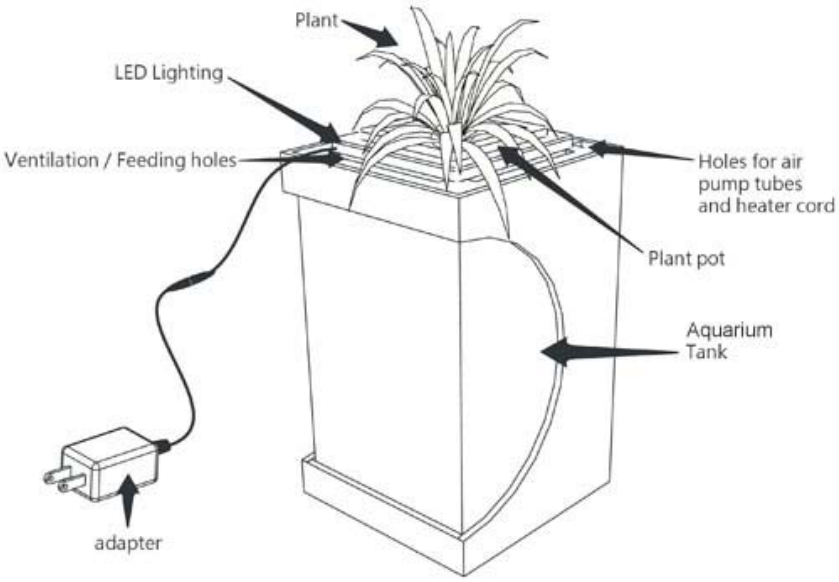
ALGAE CONTROL

In the event of algae buildup, your local or online hobby aquarium shop or pet store sells algae pads to aid in the removal of any excess algae. **IMPORTANT: Only use algae pads made for use with <u>acrylic</u> aquariums.**

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Maintenance

Congratulations! You have finished setting up your new Aquaminiums™ system.



Remember to feed your fish, top off the water, and prune or replace your plants as needed. In addition, you will need to perform the following maintenance.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... 2

Overview 4

Drip Loop..... 5

Additional Help 5

Getting Started 6

What's Included 6

Required Supplies (Not Included)..... 7

Optional Supplies (Not Included)..... 7

Begin Assembly..... 8

Wash Aquarium and Materials 8

Add Water..... 9

Optional: Install Upgrade Kit..... 10

Optional: Add Gravel and Ornaments 11

Finish Adding Water..... 12

Treat Water..... 13

Future Water Treatment..... 13

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Fish & Plant 14

Add Fish 14

Prepare Plant 17

Optional: Add Aquatic Plant 19

Optional: Add Grow Light 19

Finish Assembly 20

Cover Aquarium 20

Add Aquarium Lighting 21

Add Plant Pot 22

Connect Power Adapter 23

Power System 24

Maintenance 25

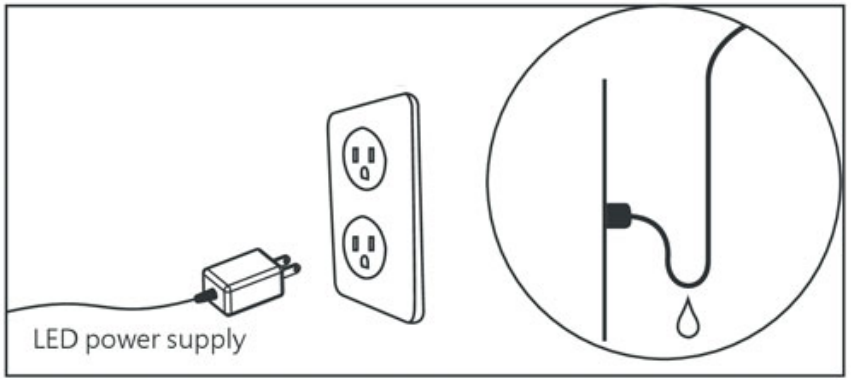
Water Changes 26

Algae Control 26

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

POWER SYSTEM

Plug in the LED lighting power adapter. You can manually turn the lights on and off using the rocker switch on the power adapter cord. If you installed a timer for an optional grow light, you may consider plugging the LED lighting into the timer as well.



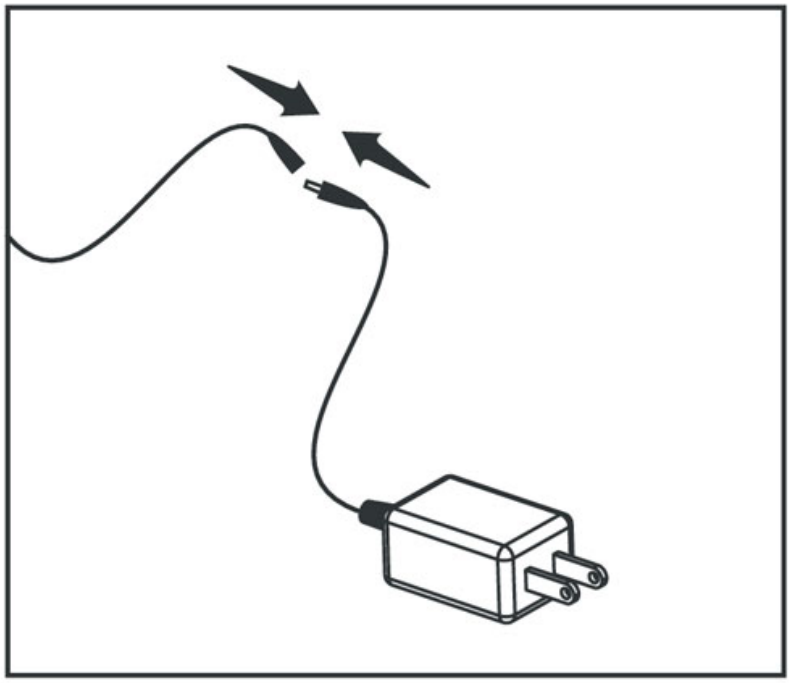
Remember, it is always a good idea to create “drip loops” for any electrical cords that may be exposed to water.

If you purchased the optional Aquaminiums™ Aquarium Upgrade Kit, you may plug the pump for the filter in it at this time as well.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

CONNECT POWER ADAPTER

Connect the power adapter to the LED lighting electrical cord.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Overview

Congratulations on your purchase of a new **Aquaminiums™** system! Your system will provide a stylish eco-home for your fish and plants. First, you will want to carefully read through this manual. Some minor assembly and setup is required, but we'll have you enjoying your new system in no time!

IMPORTANT

SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Read all Important Safety Instructions and Instructions for Use carefully. Remove and discard all packaging materials and keep them out of the reach of children and pets.

When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precations should always be observed, including the following:

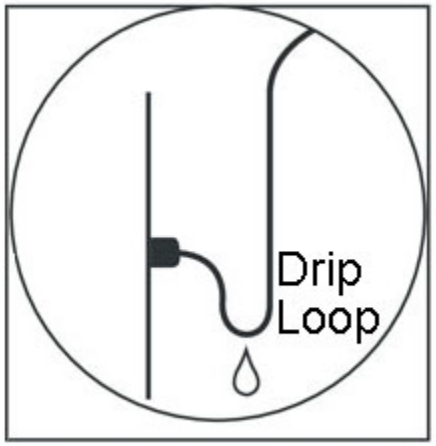
WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or injury:

1. Use indoors only.
2. Unplug all electrical cords before performing installation or maintenance.
3. Create a "drip loop" for each electrical cord. (See following section for details.)
4. Do not disassemble, modify or attempt to repair any part of the system. Contact ***The Aquaponic Source*** for examination or repair.
5. Read and follow all important notices in this guide.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

DRIP LOOP

A “drip loop” simply allows an electrical cord to loop down and back up before the electrical outlet. This helps prevent water from trickling down the cord to the electrical outlet.



ADDITIONAL HELP

To stay up-to-date on the latest in the world of aquaponics, please bookmark and refer to the following sites:

Facebook: facebook.com/TheAquaponicSource
Blog: TheAquaponicSource.com/Blog
Community Site: AquaponicsCommunity.com

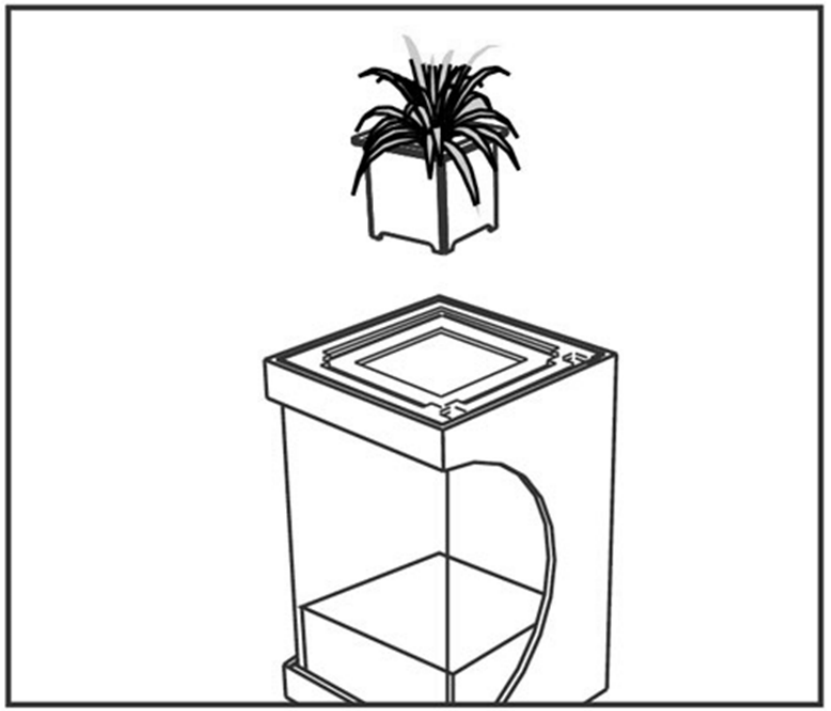
For Customer Service, contact:

CustomerService@TheAquaponicSource.com
(855) 285-4252 or (303) 720-6604

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

ADD PLANT POT

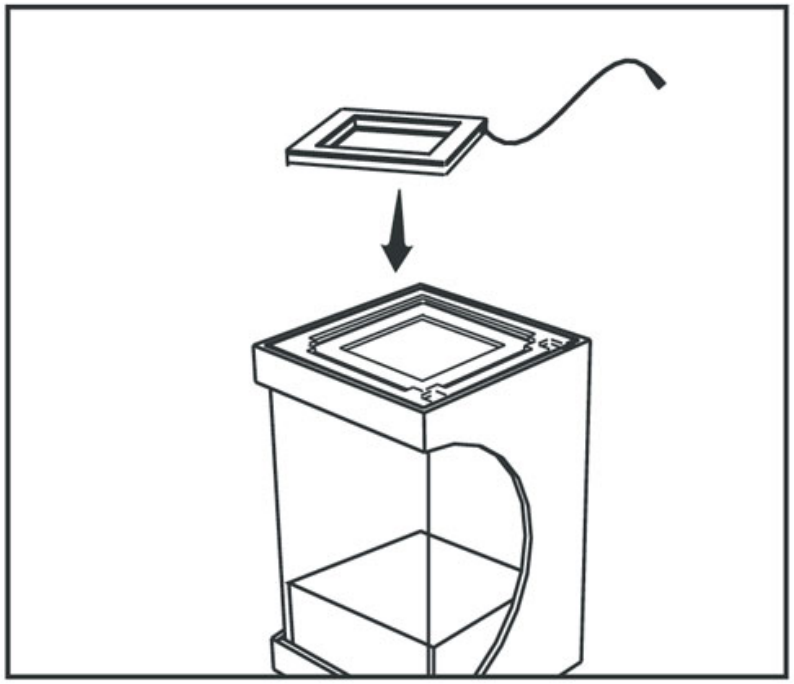
Place your plant pot in the middle of the LED lighting piece. The bottom of the plant pot and the wick will go down into the aquarium water.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

ADD AQUARIUM LIGHTING

Place the LED lighting on top of the ventilated lid with the LED lights facing down.

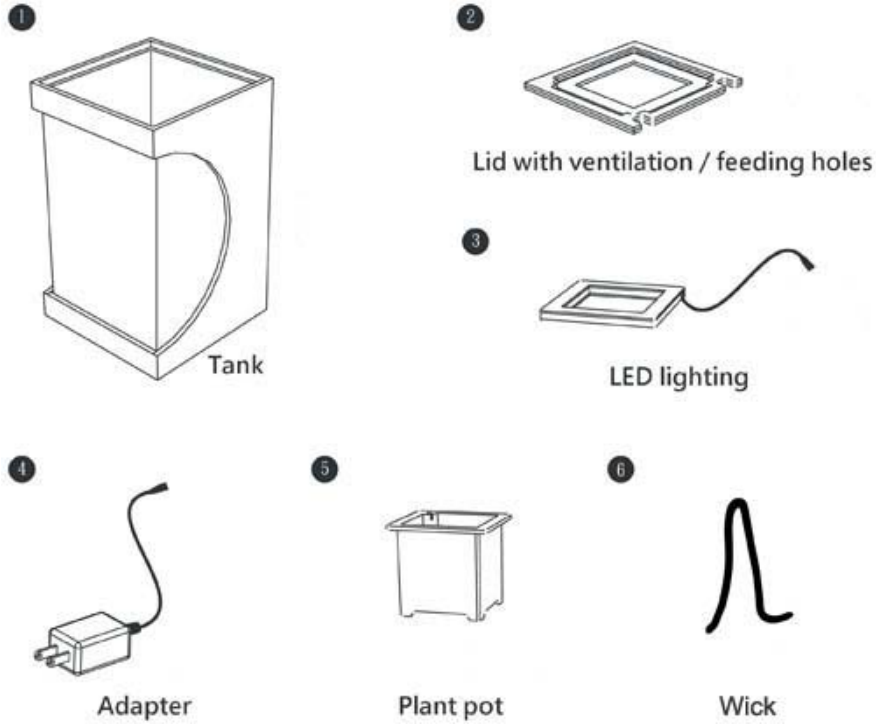


© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Getting Started

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Carefully lay out all of the parts and compare them against the picture below before beginning assembly. If you think there are any missing parts please do not hesitate to contact us at **CustomerService@TheAquaponicSource.com**



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

In addition to the hardware in the preceding picture, your new system includes an **Aquaminiums™ Starter Pack** designed to get your system up and running smoothly. Included in the Starter Pack are:

- 1 plant grow cube
- 1oz Zym-Bac™ Beneficial Live Bacteria
- 1oz D-Klor™ Dechlorinator

REQUIRED SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

- fresh water
- freshwater aquarium fish
- fish food
- houseplant or succulent

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES (NOT INCLUDED)

- Aquaminiums™ Aquarium Upgrade Kit
- Aquaminiums™ Replacement Large Grow Cubes
- aquarium gravel
- aquatic plant
- fish net
- algae pad for acrylic aquariums

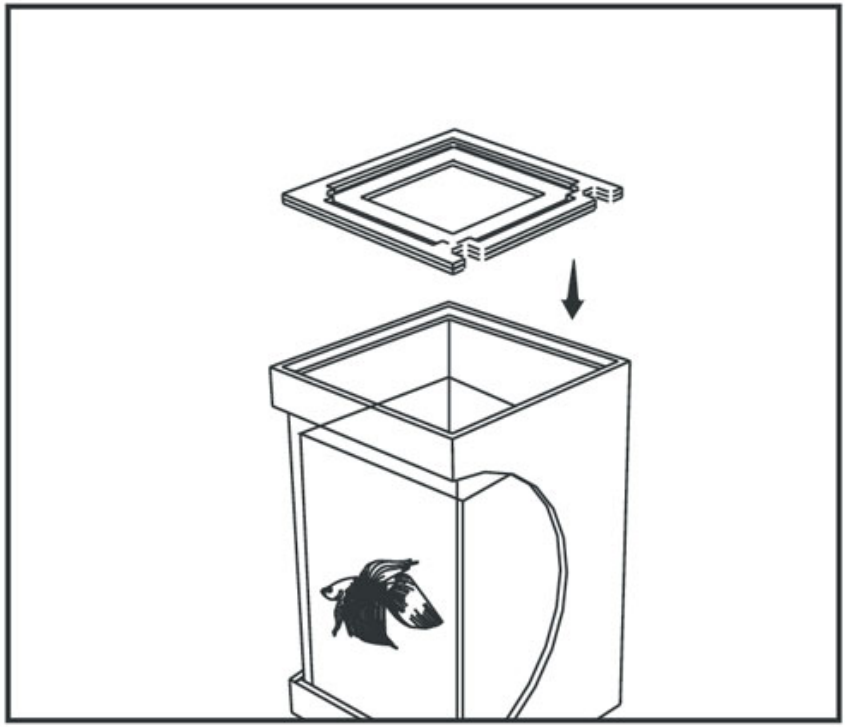
© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Finish Assembly

Now that you have added your fish and prepared your plant, you are ready to finish the assembly of your Aquaminiums™ system.

COVER AQUARIUM

Place the ventilated lid on top of the aquarium.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

OPTIONAL: ADD AQUATIC PLANT

You may optionally add a hardy freshwater aquatic plant inside your aquarium. An aquatic plant can not only add aesthetic appeal to your aquarium, but it can also serve as an additional natural biofilter for your water.

OPTIONAL: ADD GROW LIGHT

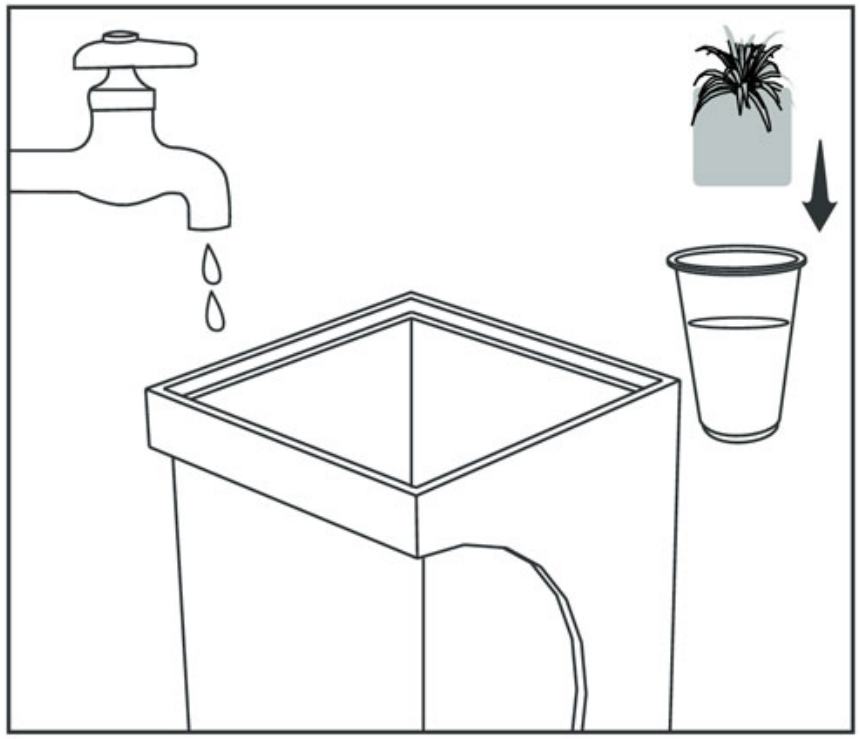
Your Aquaminiums™ system is able to support many common houseplants and succulents. You will want to take the location of your aquarium into account. If your preferred location does not provide enough light, you can use an artificial grow light such as a compact fluorescent (CFL) or LED blub. For maximum effectiveness, use a bulb that is specifically designed for use with plants. If you are using a CFL bulb, replace it after six months of use. Many of these bulbs will screw into any standard desk or floor lamp. It is a good idea to place a timer on your lamp so you do not have to manually turn your lamp on and off every day. (16 hours of light per day is a good starting point.) All of these accessories can be easily obtained from **TheAquaponicStore.com**

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Begin Assembly

WASH AQUARIUM AND MATERIALS

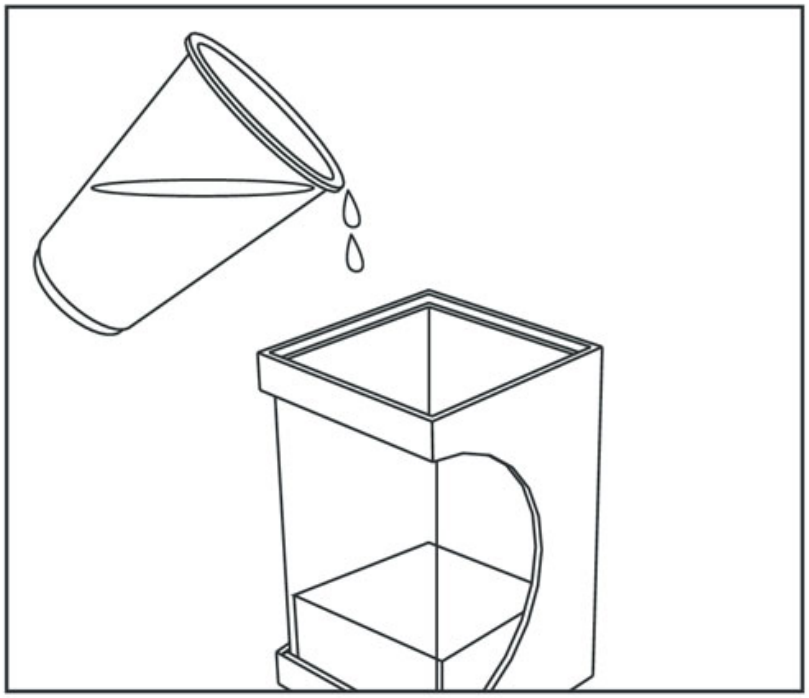
Thoroughly wash the aquarium tank with fresh water. Do not use soap or detergents. Soak the included plant grow cube for at least 15 minutes before use.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

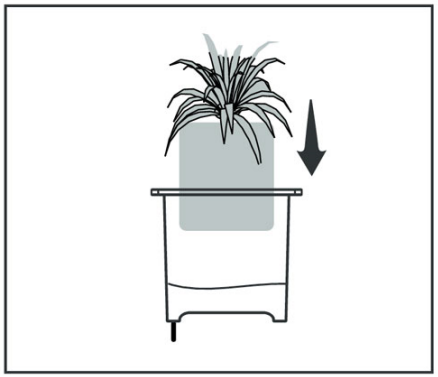
ADD WATER

Fill the aquarium approximately 1/3 full with room temperature fresh water. Regular tap water works best. Avoid using reverse osmosis (RO) or distilled water.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Your Aquaminiums™ system comes with a grow cube specially designed to fit the system's plant pot and provide just the right amount of moisture and surface area for your houseplant or succulent to thrive. You can use seeds, seedlings, cuttings, or plants in your grow cube. If you are transplanting a soil-based plant, rinse the soil away from the roots first. For seeds, seedlings, cuttings, and plants with smaller root structures, you can simply poke an appropriately sized hole in the top of the grow cube. For plants with larger or more delicate root structures, you can cut the grow cube into sections and surround the roots with each section. Finally, you may cover the top of the cube with aquarium gravel for added aesthetic appeal. Additional grow cubes may be obtained from **TheAquaponicStore.com**



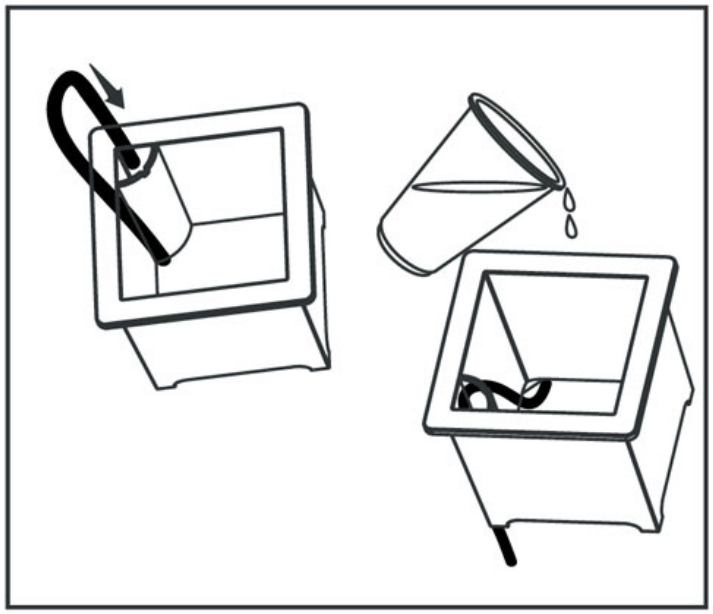
Place the planted grow cube into the plant pot

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

3. Repeat Step 2 another 1-3 times, depending upon the hardiness of your chosen breed of fish.
4. Use a fish net (or clean hands) to quickly but gently transfer your fish to the aquarium. Do NOT add the transport bag water to your aquarium.
5. Discard the transport bag and water.

PREPARE PLANT

Moisten the included wick, and thread it through the hole in the corner of the plant pot. The wick will draw water and nutrients from your aquarium to your plant pot via capillary action.

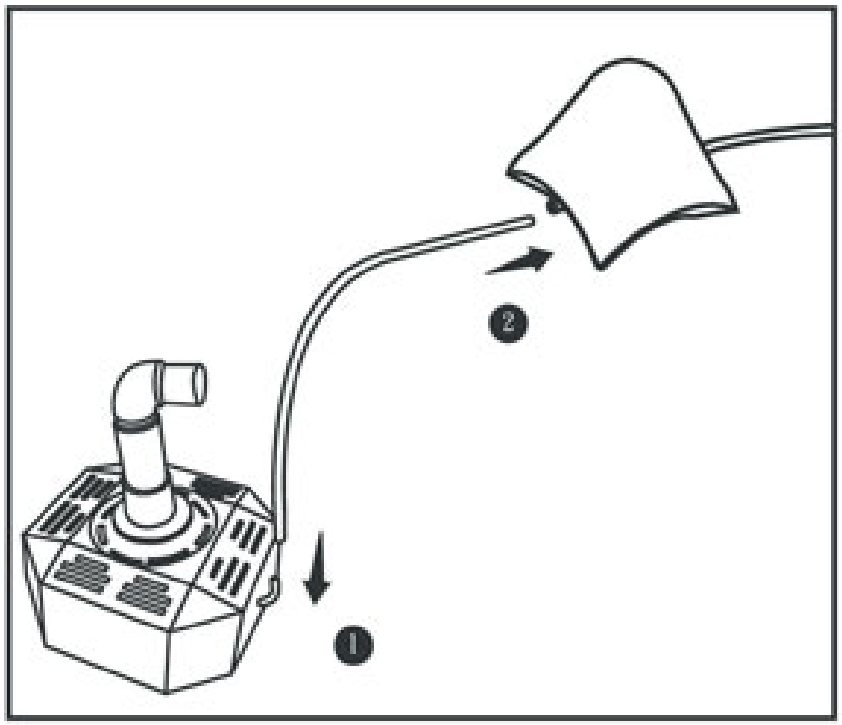


© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

OPTIONAL: INSTALL UPGRADE KIT

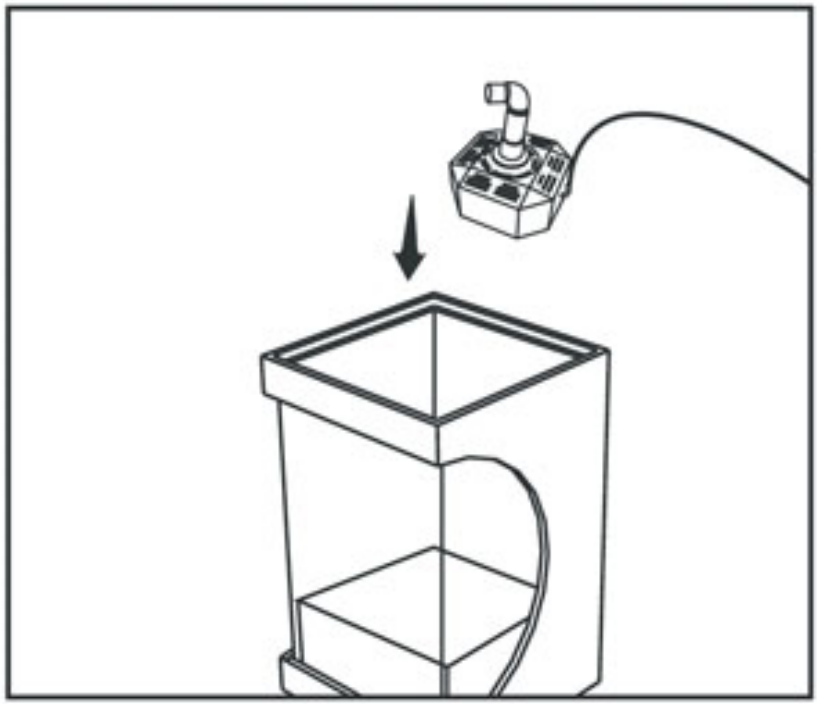
If you purchased the optional Aquaminiums™ Aquarium Upgrade Kit, you may install it at this time.

Connect the airline tubing to the filter and to the air pump.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Place the filter inside the corner of your aquarium. You may cover the filter with aquarium gravel if you wish.



OPTIONAL: ADD GRAVEL AND ORNAMENTS

Add any aquarium gravel and ornaments you wish to at this time.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

In addition to your fish or frog(s), we recommend including a snail to help control algae growth in your aquarium. Ask your hobby aquarium shop or pet store for a breed, such as a Nerite Snail, that will not outgrow the aquarium or reproduce in freshwater.

Nerite Snail

Fish do not like sudden or rapid changes in their environment. You will want to slowly acclimate your fish to any changes in temperature and water quality. Follow the recommendations of your hobby aquarium shop or pet store. Generally, you will want to do the following:

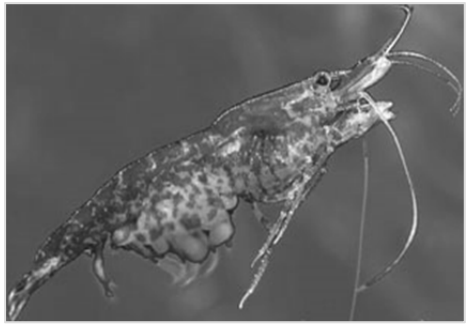
1. Place your fish in the aquarium while still in their transport bag, and leave them there for at least 10 minutes.
2. Add a small amount of aquarium water to the transport bag, and allow it to sit for at least 5 minutes. Be careful not to allow the transport bag water to spill into your aquarium.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

If you purchased the Aquaminiums™ Aquarium Upgrade Kit, its supplemental water filtration and oxygenation will allow you to house a wider variety of fish. We can therefore also recommend one of the following breeds of freshwater fish, amphibians or crustaceans for your upgraded Aquaminiums™ system.

Other Recommended Fish (With Upgrade Kit)

QUANTITY	BREED
3-5	Rasbora Brigittae
5-10	Red Cherry or Crystal Shrimp
1-2	Pygmy Corydora
3-5	Clown Killifish
3-5	Ruby Tetra
1-3	Japonica Amano Shrimp

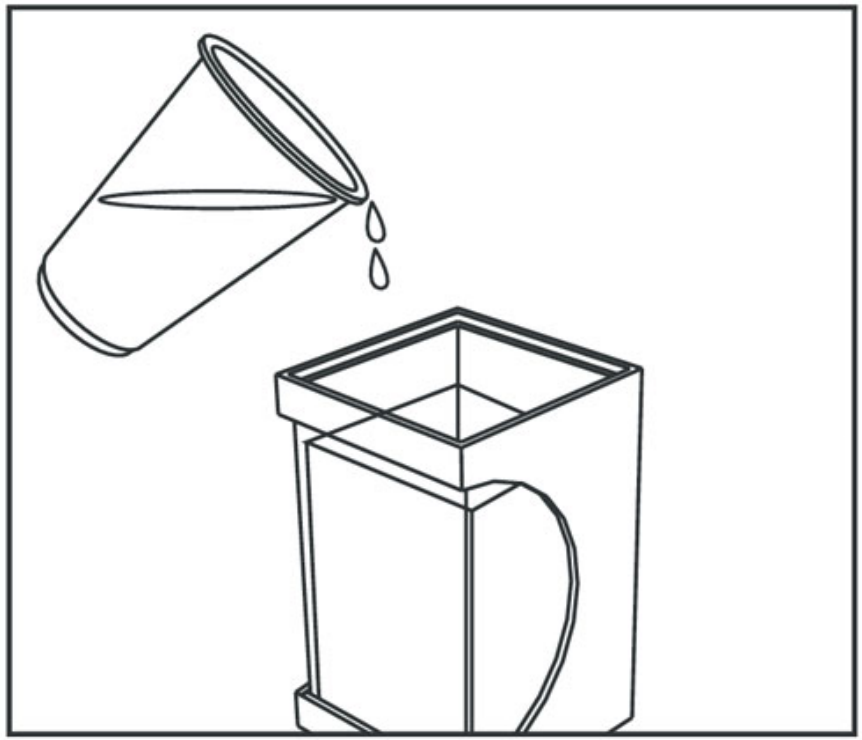


Red Cherry Shrimp

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

FINISH ADDING WATER

Add more fresh water to your aquarium until it is approximately 80% full. Take care not to disturb any aquarium gravel or ornaments you may have added.



© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

TREAT WATER

Dechlorinate the water in your aquarium using the included bottle of D-Klor™ Dechlorinator. Shake the bottle then add 1 teaspoon of D-Klor™ to your aquarium water.

After you have dechlorinated your aquarium water, you will add beneficial live bacteria to it. Shake the included bottle of Zym-Bac™ Beneficial Live Bacteria then add the entire bottle to your aquarium water.

FUTURE WATER TREATMENT

Ideally, you will want to dechlorinate any water you add to the system. If you do not have any D-Klor™ handy, you may alternatively outgas/offgas the chlorine in your water by letting it sit in an open container for 1-2 days before adding it to your fountain.

You do not need to add additional Zym-Bac™ to your water unless you empty and store your system for an extended period of time.

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.

Fish & Plant

Now that you have your system filled with fresh treated water, you are ready to add your fish and plant!

ADD FISH

Your local hobby aquarium shop or pet store is a good resource for fish, fish food, and aquarium products and advice.

We recommend <u>one</u> of the following breeds of freshwater fish or amphibians for your Aquaminiums™ system.

Recommended Fish (<u>Without</u> Upgrade Kit)

QUANTITY	BREED
1	Betta (Siamese Fighting Fish)
1	Paradise Fish
1-2	African Dwarf Frog

Betta (Siamese Fighting Fish)

© Copyright 2014 The Aquaponic Source, Inc.